

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
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December 27, 2005

Jeff Koenings  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Mr. Koenings:

I would like to extend the gratitude of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for the excellent work provided by your staff member, Tien-Shui Tsou, in participating as a member of the GOA/BSAI Groundfish plan team. The work provided to the Council from the plan teams is a primary reason why our Council continues to receive the highest quality stock assessments, and maintain conservative management of groundfish stocks in the North Pacific.

The groundfish plan teams meet twice per year, typically convening a 3-day preliminary review meeting in September, and a 5-day stock assessment review meeting in November. These meetings form the basis for the continued scientific review of stock assessments by the Council's Science and Statistical Committee (SSC). As the breadth and number of groundfish assessments continues to grow, the responsibilities placed upon members of the plan teams likewise increases. An enormous amount of critical review of voluminous reading materials is required prior to attending the meetings as well as discussion and writing assignments comprising long hours and evenings during the plan team meetings themselves. Plan team members cheerfully take on these added work responsibilities and in doing so provide the SSC and the Council with a thorough and excellent review of the stock assessments.

On behalf of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for the continued efforts by your staff in participating on this team. We value greatly their time and effort and dedication to conservative management of groundfish stocks in the North Pacific.

Sincerely,



Chris Oliver  
Executive Director

cc: Tsou

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